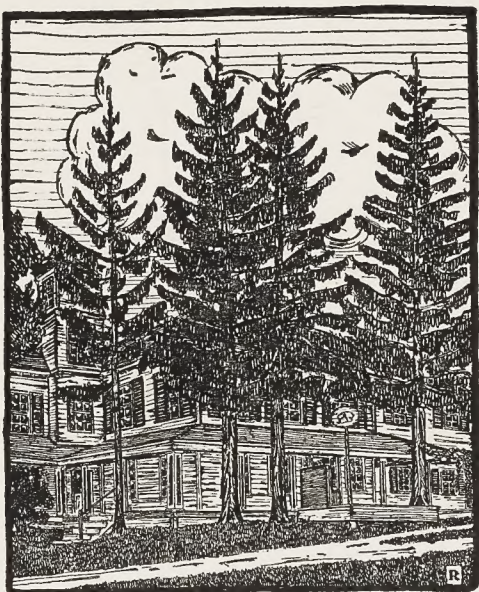




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Middlebury College Bulletin

MAY, 1931, MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

Bread Loaf Writers Conference  
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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

Vol. XXV

May, 1931

No. 8

The Bread Loaf
Writers Conference

Published by Middlebury College

Monthly from September to June

at Middlebury, Vermont

W. STORRS LEE, *Editor*

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office
Middlebury, Vt., under Act of Congress
August 24, 1912

Bread Loaf Writers Conference

Conducted by

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

at Bread Loaf Inn

August 19-September 3, 1931

EXPERT guidance in literary problems for those interested in writing whether as a profession or as means to personal development is offered in the sixth annual session of the Bread Loaf Writers Conference to be conducted from August 19 to September 3, as a section of the Bread Loaf School of English.

Inaugurated in 1926 as a supplementary session of the Bread Loaf School of English, the Writers Conference was the result of the conviction of John Farrar, formerly editor of *The Bookman*, under whose direction the Conference was conducted for three sessions, that many writers, especially young writers, are at a loss for criticism and advice that shall be at once honest and friendly. Often lack of success is the result merely of lack of information or of misguided effort, the writer's attempt having taken a wrong direction. An impersonal but kindly critic can sometimes detect immediately wherein the work of the student is lacking—whether in want of technical proficiency, faults of style and manner, deficiency in imagination or in ideas, or choice of the wrong subject matter. He may see, for example, that the student needs drill in the elements of composition, or that he has not been writing in a form suitable to his subject, or that he has not been using his own experience. Or he may perceive that the student has, on the

one hand, mistaken his talents or, on the other, needs only encouragement to continue in his present efforts. That such advice is not only possible but is fruitful of practical results has been well established in the four previous sessions.

Although those conducting the Conference realize that it is impossible really to teach anyone to write, it is hoped that at Bread Loaf, in an atmosphere of friendliness and in contact with a group of writers and critics who have achieved some measure of success, the terms "honest criticism" and "friendly advice" are given their fullest meaning.

ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM

The program will consist of background talks on the writing of novels, short stories, essays, drama, articles, criticism, and verse, with practical suggestions on the use of experience in writing and on the development of style. For this reason both the morning talks and the afternoon symposia will discuss critical principles and technical methods as practically and informally as possible, the students being expected to ask questions and otherwise to contribute. In addition to the talks, which will be given not only by the members of the staff but by visiting writers of note, informal discussions will be held on general topics of importance to the writer, and individual consultations will be arranged with members of the staff for the examination and criticism of manuscripts. The number of students will be limited, and each will receive counsel on his own problems in writing from successful authors and critics with practical experience in the field of his particular interest.

The daily work of the Conference will consist of four main parts. Every morning between nine and twelve-

thirty o'clock, talks will be given by members of the staff on various aspects of the novel, short story, poetry, essay, drama, article, and criticism. An hour of the early afternoon will be devoted either to a talk or to a general discussion or symposium on some topic of importance to writers. In the evening a lecture or reading by a visitor or by a member of the staff will illustrate some subject not otherwise discussed. And, finally, at assigned times each student will have personal interviews with members of the staff, in which actual specimens of his own writing will be criticized. Attendance at all lectures and conferences is optional.

Students are urged to bring to the Conference some examples of their writing. All manuscripts must be typed. Upon his arrival at Bread Loaf each student will be advised regarding which member of the staff to see and, in general, what talks and conferences to attend.

THE STAFF

Robert M. Gay is director of the Conference and will be in personal charge of its administration. For this post he is exceptionally qualified both by his rich experience as a writer and a teacher of writing and by his intimate knowledge of the Conference through his work on the staff in 1926 and 1928 and as Director in 1929 and 1930. He is the author of *Writing Through Reading, Emerson: a study of the Poet as Seer*, etc.; is head of the English Department of Simmons College, and was for three years a visiting lecturer at Harvard University and for ten years at Boston University. For some years he has been a frequent contributor to various magazines. His anthologies, *A College Book of Verse*, and *A College Book of Prose* have aroused much favorable comment.

In addition to Mr. Gay, the members of the regular staff who will be at Bread Loaf for the entire period of the Conference are:

Edith Mirrielees, writer and teacher

Margaret Widdemer, novelist and poet

Hervey Allen, poet and critic

Lee Wilson Dodd, novelist and critic

Gorham Munson, critic and editor

Theodore Morrison, editor and poet

Edith Mirrielees, associate professor of English at Stanford University, is both a writer of excellent short stories which have found a place in the anthologies and an authority on the art of the short story. Her two books, recently published, *Writing Short Stories* and *Significant Contemporary Stories*, are already recognized as among the best of their kind. Her course in The Analysis of the Short Story has been an outstanding feature of the School of English.

Margaret Widdemer is widely known for her brilliant work as poet, novelist, and lecturer. Among the many volumes of which she is the author are *The Haunted Hour*, *Ballads and Lyrics*, *Old Road to Paradise*, *Gallant Lady*, *Rhinestones*, etc. Miss Widdemer will give of her valuable practical experience to those working on novels and short stories.

Lee Wilson Dodd is prominent in literary circles as a novelist, short story writer and critic. He has written and produced a number of plays, of which the most successful were his dramatization of *Bunker Bean*, a novel by Harry Leon Wilson, and his original comedy, *The Changelings*, produced by the late Henry Miller in 1922-23. He has published three novels, *The Book of Susan*, *Lilia Chenoweth*, and *The Girl Next Door*, and a story for children, *The Sly Giraffe*. He has also brought out *The Golden*

Complex, and extended satirical essay on the *Inferiority Complex*. Mr. Dodd has written essays and criticism for the *Yale Review* and elsewhere, and during the past ten years has been an active contributor to *The Saturday Review of Literature*.

Hervey Allen is outstanding among the younger American writers as a poet, novelist, and biographer. Among his highly successfully volumes are *Earth Moods*, a collection of poems; *Towards the Flame*, a war novel; and his distinguished biography, *Israfel: The Life and Times of Edgar Allan Poe*. He is respected also as a critic of brilliant and sound judgment.

Gorham Munson has had wide experience as biographer, critic, and magazine editor. He is known as one of the most thoughtful of the younger critics, and his essays on humanism and his reviews published in the leading weekly journals and monthly magazines have aroused much interest. His magazine experience includes his work as founder and editor of *Secession*; contributor to the *Bookman*, *Dial*, *New Republic*, *Little Review*, *Criterion*, etc. He has won earnest attention as the author of *Waldo Frank: A Study*; *Robert Frost: A Study in Sensibility and Good Sense*; *Destinations*; *Style and Form in American Prose*, etc.

Theodore Morrison is an Associate Editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* and a former instructor at Harvard University. He has contributed poems to the *Atlantic Monthly* and to *The New Adelphi*. His essays and reviews have appeared in *The Bookman*, *The Independent*, *The Boston Transcript*, etc.

VISITING LECTURERS

Among the visitors will be Clayton Hamilton, author, lecturer, dramatic editor of the *Forum*, *Vogue*, a member of the *National Institute of Arts and Letters*, author of

Conversation on Contemporary Drama, Materials and Methods of Fiction, etc.; Claude Moore Fuess, educator, editor and author, contributor to *Dictionary of American Biography*, author of *Byron as a Satirist in Verse*, *Life of Caleb Cushing*, etc.; the founder of the Conference, John Farrar, of Farrar and Rinehart; Edward Weeks, Editor of the *Atlantic Monthly Press*, and Samuel Merwin, novelist, short story writer, and editor, author of *The Citadel*, *The Passionate Pilgrim*, etc.

THE LOCATION

The School of English is housed in Bread Loaf Inn, so-called because it is situated near Bread Loaf Mountain. It is a picturesque old hotel in one of the most beautiful sections of the Green Mountains, on the border of the great Battell Forest of over 30,000 acres of unbroken woodland. The Inn and cottages form a community high up in the mountains, far from any village, insuring quiet and seclusion, but easily accessible over good automobile roads.

RECREATION

The region about Bread Loaf offers unusual opportunities for outdoor recreation. Tennis, horseback-riding, hikes over the Long Trail, swimming at Lake Dunmore, and golf at Middlebury and Brandon will enable students to combine recreation with work in a delightful manner.

REGISTRATION

Admission to the Conference is without examination, but is subject to the approval of the Director. Application blanks will be sent upon request. Address all correspondence, except correspondence concerning rooms, to Assistant Dean H. G. Owen, Storrs Avenue, Middlebury, Vermont.

Correspondence concerning rooms should be conducted with Mrs. Pamela Powell, Secretary of the Summer Session, Middlebury, Vermont.

A charge of \$125 covers cost of tuition and board at Bread Loaf for the period of the Conference, and all incidental expenses of registration except room rent. The Conference begins with the noon meal on August 19 and ends after breakfast September 3. Bread Loaf Inn, the home of the Conference, is situated twelve miles from Middlebury. Free transportation will be furnished from Middlebury to Bread Loaf on August 19 and from Bread Loaf to Middlebury on September 3, but free transportation cannot be provided except on the dates mentioned.

Rooms may be had from \$8 to \$42 for the period of the Conference. Further information will be furnished by Mrs. Powell. A \$20 fee, applicable to the charge for board and tuition, must be deposited with Mrs. Powell on or before August 1 in order to secure accommodations. Because of the shortness of the Conference and the expense of conducting it, no refunds may be granted. Nor may students enroll for less than the entire session. Payment for room, tuition and board must be made at the time of registration *in the form of travelers checks.*





